

The 2026 Israeli Elections: What's at Stake for Israel and the Jewish World?

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He has also written numerous scholarly articles, and book chapters, as well as commentaries in the Los Angeles Times, Ha'aretz, The Jerusalem Post, and other prominent outlets.

Dr. Saltzman earned his Ph.D. in International Relations in 2010 from the University of Haifa and was a postdoctoral research fellow at the International Security Program (ISP), Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (2009-2010).

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Resources

Ynetnews: <https://www.ynetnews.com/category/3083>

Al monitor: <https://www.al-monitor.com/israel>

The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society: <https://academic.oup.com/edited-volume/34274>

Freedom House: <https://freedomhouse.org/country/israel>

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Security and war-related decisions will dominate the political campaigns of the key parties: Questions about Iran, Gaza, Hezbollah, military preparedness, and accountability for security failures are expected to be central issues. Competing visions of how to guarantee Israel's long-term security are shaping the political debate.
- ✓ The future of Israeli democracy is on the ballot: Debates over judicial reform, constitutional arrangements, checks and balances, and government accountability remain highly consequential. Several political forces are proposing structural changes to Israel's governing system.
- ✓ Israel's internal social contract is under debate: The election will test how Israelis navigate divisions over religion, democracy, minority rights, economic priorities, and civic responsibilities, raising fundamental questions about the character of the state and the future of Israeli society.
- ✓ Coalition politics may reshape Israel's leadership: Because Israel's political system relies on coalition governments, the election is not only about who wins the most seats but also about which alliances can form a governing majority. New political alignments and challengers among Jewish and Arab parties could significantly alter the balance of power in the Knesset (Israeli parliament).
- ✓ The outcome will resonate across the global Jewish community: The election could influence Israel's relationship with Diaspora Jews, debates about Jewish identity and Zionism, responses to antisemitism, and the broader U.S.–Israel relationship. For many Jewish communities worldwide, the results will affect both communal conversations and geopolitical realities.

The views expressed by the speaker don't necessarily reflect Chai Mitzvah's official position.